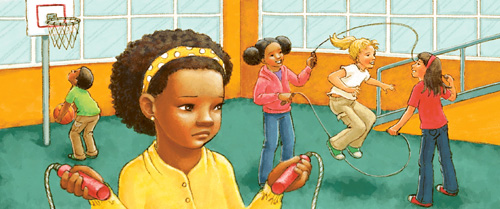
**Sit Next to Me**

*By Diana Eid*

*Illustrated by Elizabeth O. Dulemba*

Once again, Myra sat alone on the bus. Even after two weeks at her new school, Myra had not made any friends.

At recess, she played alone.

In art class, she drew alone.

In the lunchroom, she ate alone.

And on the bus ride home, she sat alone.

Myra could not figure out why no one wanted to be her friend.

Other kids joked and laughed with each other. But none of them joked and laughed with her.

Just thinking about it made her head hurt and her stomach feel funny.

One day, as Myra sat alone on the way to school, she looked at the seat across from her. She saw a girl sitting all by herself. The girl looked lonely, too.

Myra wondered if she should say hello.

But what if the girl didn't want to be her friend? Maybe she already had a lot of friends.

What if the girl ignored her? What if she laughed at her? Myra stared at the floor of the bus. Finally, she took a deep breath and smiled at the girl.

The girl smiled back.

Myra said, "Hi, I'm Myra. Do you want to sit next to me?"

The girl's smile grew. "I'm Nadia. Yes, I'd like to sit next to you."

At the next stop, Nadia slid into the seat next to Myra. They joked and laughed the whole way to school.

At recess, Myra and Nadia played together.

In art class, they drew together.

In the lunchroom, they ate together.

And on the bus ride home, they sat together.

When it came time for Myra to get off the bus, she turned to her new friend. "'Bye, Nadia! I'll see you tomorrow!"

Nadia smiled. "Good-bye, Myra. I'll save you a seat."

Myra hopped off the bus and ran all the way to her front door. She turned around and waved to Nadia. Then she watched as the bus drove away.

A big smile spread across Myra's face. She had made a friend. A friend who was going to save her a seat tomorrow. She could hardly wait.



1. Why do the kids laugh and joke with each other but not with Myra?
2. Myra was always alone.
3. The other kids are mean.
4. The other kids don’t like Myra.
5. The kids are more familiar with each other.
6. Read these sentences from the story

**Other kids joked and laughed with each other. But none of them joked and laughed with her. Just thinking about it made her head hurt and her stomach feel funny.**

Why was Myra feeling sick?

1. She was ill from a bad breakfast.
2. She was left out of the fun activities.
3. She was worried she would never make friends.
4. She was nervous about talking to the girl on the bus.
5. Why was it so hard for Myra to smile at Nadia on the bus?
6. Myra was too shy to smile at Nadia.
7. She had never seen Nadia at school before.
8. Myra was worried about what Nadia would say.
9. She thought smiling would not help make a new friend.
10. How was Myra feeling after she joked and laughed with Nadia on the way to school?
11. caring
12. nervous
13. relieved
14. worried
15. What is MOST LIKELY to happen next between Myra and Nadia?
16. They will start walking to school.
17. They will play and talk again tomorrow.
18. They will never talk to each other again.
19. They will make friends with the other kids.
20. Which statement BEST describes the author’s view of making friends?
21. Making friends is easy.
22. Making friends takes a long time.
23. Making friends can make you feel sick.
24. Making friends can be scary but worth it.
25. Which sentence BEST explains what the story is about?
26. Kids try to help a girl who is lonely.
27. Kids are mean to a new girl at school.
28. A girl learns how to make a new friend.
29. A girl worries about what other kids think of her.
30. Why did Nadia MOST LIKELY smile back at Myra on the bus?
31. She is thinking of a joke.
32. She is a really happy person.
33. She really wants to meet Myra.
34. She knew smiling at others is the polite thing to do.
35. Which pair of words from the article is most OPPOSITE in meaning?
36. hopped, ran
37. joked, laughed
38. smiled, waved
39. together, alone
40. What is Myra’s MAIN problem in the story?
41. She was lonely at her new school.
42. She was afraid of being laughed at.
43. She is not very good at draw in art.
44. She saw the other kids make fun of her.

Answer Key:

1. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
2. Correct Answer is C, DOK 3
3. Correct Answer is C, DOK 2
4. Correct Answer is C, DOK 3
5. Correct Answer is B, DOK 3
6. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
7. Correct Answer is C, DOK 2
8. Correct Answer is C, DOK 2
9. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
10. Correct Answer is A, DOK 2